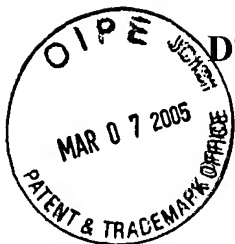


IPW



DT-6745

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT : Erich Leibhard et al.  
SERIAL NO. : 10/761,544  
FILED : January 20, 2004  
FOR : ATTACHMENT ELEMENT  
EXAMINER : Frederick Lyndon Lagman Group: 3673

Mail Stop **Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action January 10, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 12, as being unpatentable over the prior art, and indicated that Claims 3, 5,-7, 9-11, and 13 would become allowable upon having been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of Claims 3, 5, 7, 9-11, and 13 is noted and appreciated. However, it is respectfully submitted that rewriting these Claims in independent form is not necessary as they depend on a claim, Claim 1, directly or indirectly, believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows: